

PENNSYLVANIA LESBIAN/GAY SUPPORT NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1979

NOTE: NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 16th (not the 9th)

AT OUR LAST MEETING

The meeting on May 19th was devoted mainly to **PRIDE '79**, but we also discussed several other matters.

As was agreed upon at the March meeting, the executive committee is preparing a structure document (bylaws) for the Network. A statement of purpose, drawn from motions and discussion held over the last several months, was read, and after minor alterations, adopted. This statement would serve as a preamble for our bylaws and will be presented to the general membership, at the June meeting, for final approval.

The program on alcohol and drug abuse, which is being carried out in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, has received support from the State Drug and Alcohol Abuse agency. Workshops and programs about alcohol and sexual minorities will be included in the annual state D & A conference in November, and at a national convention, in Washington, D.C., this coming August. Further activities by the Network and the Governor's Council will focus on our own community in the areas of education and training of Lesbian/Gay social service agencies.

As was reported in the last newsletter, the six switchboard/hotlines in Pennsylvania have met and are now working together on several areas of common interest. They will meet again in July, in Philadelphia, and in October at **PRIDE '79**. (We apologize to the Phila. Gay Switchboard for getting their number wrong on the flyer. It should be: 215-928-1919.)



AT OUR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Saturday June 16th** (Note the change of date) at the Friends Meetinghouse, in Harrisburg. We will continue discussion of **PRIDE '79**, especially about publicity to all parts of the state, and your input is encouraged. Also on the agenda are the proposed bylaws. Our statement of purpose needs to be voted on, and we have many decisions to make on the type of structure we want for the Network. The long-term success of the Network will depend, in large part, on the strength of our constitution. We hope as many members as possible can attend and participate in this important discussion.

SPECIAL NOTE: The Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities will make a special presentation at the June 16th meeting on their activities and on the status of the Council's relations with the new administration in Harrisburg.

SEE YOU ON THE 16th



GOVERNOR ISSUES PRIDE WEEK PROCLAMATION

On May 29th, Governor Dick Thornburgh issued a proclamation marking June 24 through 30 as "Gay Pride Week." The proclamation is a "reaffirmation of this State's commitment to the principle of equal treatment under the law for all citizens." We urge all our friends to write to the Governor in support of this statement. When Gov. Shapp issued a similar proclamation several years ago, his office received over three hundred letters of protest and only two dozen in support.

Address correspondence to:

The Honorable Dick Thornburgh
Governor's Office
238 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

PRIDE '79 UPDATE

With five months to go, much planning has been done for the conference. Our first press release is out, and our flyer is being distributed. Registration forms will be ready in July. Tell your friends.

Our major need is money. We will need to raise almost \$4000 in order to pay for the publicity, flyers, registration forms, entertainers, conference programs, postage, equipment at the conference site, and much more. We have to give the Holiday Inn a deposit of \$1000 by July 19th, to reserve the space. After we pay their equipment charges and any outstanding printing bills in October, the remainder of the returned deposit will be set aside for **PRIDE '80**. Good news, we have almost \$450 in the bank from **PRIDE '78**, and that amount plus the money being raised by regional benefits - in Pittsburgh over the Memorial Day weekend; and in Allentown on June 9th - should help us make the deposit deadline.

The fees for **PRIDE '79** have been approved. The basic registration fee will be \$15. (If paid separately, that would be -\$5 for workshop and meeting admission; \$10 for the Saturday evening banquet; and \$5 for the entertainment, Pat Bond and others, and dance on Saturday night.) Booth space will be available for organizations and businesses: \$10 for groups (includes admission for one to the workshops); and \$20 for businesses (includes admission for one to workshops). Special rates and all booth registration information will be handled by people in Williamsport. Other areas of the state have taken on certain responsibilities: Pittsburgh - hospitality & registration; Harrisburg - program sponsorship; Allentown - workshops; Philadelphia - entertainment and publicity.



PENNSYLVANIA NOTES

***Terrific news from Pittsburgh - in the recent Pa. Democratic primary election, openly Gay candidate for County Commissioner, Randy Forrester, got over 23,000 votes. Though Randy did not win, his nearly 20% of the vote is causing Pittsburgh politicians to rethink their dealings with the Lesbian/Gay Community.

***From the other end of the State, Philadelphia, comes word that the very establishment United Way, has granted the Gay Community Center \$12,000. The money will be administered by Episcopal Community Services, and they have seen to it the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania will match this grant. With these funds, the Center will hire a fulltime program director. Applications for the job, which will entail designing programs (and finding funding sources for them) of medical, social service and educational benefit to the Lesbian/Gay community, are now being accepted. Persons interested should have a minimum of three year's experience in social service work, should be openly Gay and know the Philadelphia area. Resumes should be sent to the Philadelphia Gay Community Center, 326 Kater St., Phila., Pa. 19147.

***A Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration will be held on June 16th, in Philadelphia. Speakers, entertainment, food and a party atmosphere will be the features. The celebration will begin at 7PM
at JFK Plaza, 16th & JFK Blvd.